

ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

The Board Of Directors of the St. Louis Bird Club apologizes for its failure to conduct a November meeting. The Club's constitution provides that meetings shall be held in November, January, February, March, April, and May. But even though November was skipped we are certain that the next five months hold much in store for all of us in meetings and in bird jaunts, and we are looking forward to a bird year even more successful than the last. We urge your attendance at each meeting and every bird walk. You'll be glad you came.

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting of the St. Louis Bird Club will be held Tuesday eve., January 30th at 8 P.M. at the Jefferson Memorial. This is the Club's annual organization meeting. Officers are to be elected. The program is: Two films from the Biological Survey, moving pictures on "Game Bird Farming" and "The Hows and Whys of Bird Banding." You'll enjoy these pictures. We'll enjoy meeting you all again. Be there.

1940 DUES ARE DUE

Our treasury is a sock with a gaping hole in the toe. Will each of you right now just as you read this reach down in that lush, green-backed sock of yours and draw out one, just one, mind you, dollar bill? Then, mail it to our treasurer, Miss Nelle Lee Jenkinson, 4493 Pershing Avenue, who will immediately go to work mending. If enough of you respond we feel she's a capable enough needlewomen to stop the gap..... Seriously, your dollar returned quickly will help us in planning the next few months activity. Without it we can't offer what you want -- more bird enjoyment. Don't forget, please! Mail your dollar.

1939 RESUME

Members of the St. Louis Bird Club rolled up imposing observations during the year. Honors of the year for most birds observed during the season go to our energetic L. R. Ernst who broke her 1938 tie of 216 species with Wayne Short by beating him out 231 to 228, the combined lists totaling 243. Approximately 35 species could be seen in the St. Louis area over a year's period if one found all the casuals and accidents.

But more important than the numbers is the quality of the following composite record of observers of the region. This list is composed of the best birds of the year in order of their "bestness". But it's admittedly a Herculean task to rank them in correct order for so many things come in for consideration. But here is at least an attempt:

1. GLOSSY IBIS. Observers: Holzmark-Fouke; later Ernst, Short. Second record for Missouri, although the first in 1888 has some features that make it rather hypothetical.
2. WESTERN GREBE. Observers: Watson-Ernst-Short. Second record for Missouri.
3. SPRAGUE'S PIPIT. Observer: Short. Horseshoe Lake, Illinois, some 5 miles from the Missouri line. Widmann quotes one record for Mo.
4. NORTHERN PHALAROPE. Observers: Zemple; later Short, Ernst. First in St. Louis since 1878. Fourth known record for Missouri.
5. SNOWY EGRET. Observers: Ernst-Holzmark-Heckler-Short; later Comfort. First record for the St. Louis region since the Egret purge some 40 years ago. Observed at Dupe, Illinois two miles from Missouri border.
6. CINNAMON TEAL. Observers: Laird-Elliott; later Ernst, Short, Bennitt. Considered a casual straggler in Missouri.
7. HUDSONIAN GODWIT. Observers: Short-Ernst. Rare all over the country.
8. HOLBOELL'S GREBE. Observers: Short; later Ernst-Short-Jenner. Widmann says this bird was taken in Mo. in 1854. Seen in fall of 1937 at Horseshoe Lake, Ill. This observation also at Horseshoe.
9. FRANKLIN'S GULL. Observers: Short-Heckler. First known record in this vicinity in a couple of decades.
10. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. Observers: Ernst in spring; Short in spring and fall.
11. YELLOW RAIL. Observers: Ernst, Elliot; later Ernst-Short. Widmann gives no fall record for Missouri. This fall observation was at Horseshoe Lake, Illinois at same spot Ernst and Elliot had this species in the fall of 1938.

NEWS FROM THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Through a state-wide program set up by the Conservation Commission, many tons of grain have been fed to quail and other birds during the recent periods of inclement weather by members of cooperating groups. In addition to the tons of grain furnished by the Commission, sportsmen and others have supplemented this food by several tons of feed for the birds.

Grain furnished by the Commission has been used largely by the 4-H Clubs, Vocational Agriculture groups, the Soil Conservation Service, the Civilian Conservation Service, and rural schools. These groups obtained grain furnished by the Commission through the offices of the county agricultural extension agents.

County superintendents of schools in every county of the state have been enlisted in the program and furnished leaflets on winter feeding of birds for distribution to rural school teachers.

State Highway maintenance crews in many districts not only have been aiding in the feed distribution program but have used road machinery to clear snow from lespedeza covered highway shoulders.

Missouri farmers have already placed orders with the Missouri Conservation Commission for more than a million trees to be delivered for planting in March and April. With the Agricultural Adjustment Act program in Missouri allowing additional payments for plantings and shrubs for wildlife and farm forestry, the demand for trees has shown a marked increase. Last year, 548 farmers in 93 Missouri counties obtained more than 850,000 trees through the Conservation Commission.

SOME WINTER OBSERVATIONS

Several good finds have been reported the past few weeks. On December 30th a group composed of Ernst, Short, and the two Watsons of the St. Louis Bird Club and Father Link, Callahan, and Gerard of the Grafton Nature League reported 49 species in the Alton Dam Area. Best finds were: Two handsome Bald Eagles standing on the ice out in the middle of the Mississippi; two Hermit Thrushes, rare winter residents in this area. Short & Watson had another Hermit Thrush at Peruque, St. Charles County, on January 5 as well as a Red-Breasted Nuthatch. Ernst, Short, & Watson had 8 Lapland Longspurs in that area January 6. They were feeding unconcernedly in the company of Northern and Prairie Horned Larks and permitted approach as near as 8 feet. On January 12th at Horseshoe Lake Watson & Short had a single Myrtle Warbler, which is a good winter find, and a lone Pied-billed Grebe, also an unusual winter resident.

Try some winter birding! You'll be surprised how much ornithological activity is going on

S U M M A R Y

Feed the birds!! Attend the January meeting!! Mail your dues!!

12. EARED GREBE. Observers: Ernst; later Ernst-Short-Jenner.

13. BLACK BELLIED PLOVER. Observers: Spring, Ernst-Short; also Holzmark; Fall, Zemple, Short.

14. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Observers: The Comforts;

15. LAPLAND LONGSPUR. Observers: Ernst-Elliott.

Honorable mention: PIGEON HAWK (Ernst); LESSER CANADA GOOSE (Ernst, Illinois); HORNERED GREBE (Ernst-Jenner-Short, Illinois); RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (Ernst, Short-Dr. Pirnie); STILT SANDPIPER (Comfort, Short, Ernst-Holzmark-Heekler-Short, Zemple, Illinois.) HOODED WARBLER (Short, Comfort)

Past records quoted in this list are from all that we know to be available. It must be remembered always that due to the incompleteness of printed records some observations have gone unrecorded.

WINTER FEEDING DISPLAY

The St. Louis Bird Club is grateful to Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney for devoting one of its Olive Street windows to an appeal from the Bird Club for winter feeding and to Schwarz Studios for their co-operation. We feel that the display encouraged a great many people to start winter feeding. By the way, are you doing your part? If

you haven't any home made bird feeders drop in at the Palmer Seed

Co. and our good friend Mr. Palmer will show you his fine stock of feeders and bird cakes. Don't forget to keep plenty of suet, cracked grains, seeds, bread crumbs, etc. in your feeders during these blustery days. You'll be repaid in summer song.

S U M M E R

Feed the birds! Attend the January meeting! Mail your checks!